neglected/backward regions including North-Eastern Regions, NABARD has been requested to relax its norms relating to minimum recovery for sanction of credit limits and norms in the discipline of Minimum Involvement.

(vi) As a part of comprehensive restructuring package, equity support has been provided to Regional Rural Banks.

(vii) The share capital of NABARD has been increased by Rs. 1000 crores during the last two years.

(viii) State Level Agricultural Development Finance Companies have been set up in the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka with the objective of strengthening the flow of credit for commercial or high technology agriculture, export oriented agriculture and allied activities including infrastructure support systems.

(ix) The Cooperative Bank of India has been registered for being set up in order to enable the Cooperative Credit Structure to impart greater internal mobility to its resources and access to external sources of assistance.

(x) Guidelines in regard to requirement of collateral security by way of mortgage of land/charge on land or third party guarantee have been liberalised.

(xi) State Governments have been requested to introduce Agricultural Credit Cards by the banks for the farmers to enable them to secure production credit instantly.

Committee to Study Indebtedness among Farmers in Punjab and Haryana

155. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had appointed a committee last year to study the problem of indebtedness among farmers in the States of Punjab and Haryana;

whether the Committee has submitted its report; if so, the details of the findings and recommendations made; and

the action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) With a view to examining the issues relating to indebtedness among farmers in Punjab and Haryana and to suggest necessary remedial measures, a High Level Committee on indebtedness among farmers in the States of Punjab and Haryana was constituted by the Government of India. The recommendations of the Committee which has submitted its report, are under examination for taking a view in consultation with the concerned agencies/Departments of the Government.

Inclusion of Commercial Crops under Crops Insurance Scheme

156. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
DR. MOHAN BABU:
SHRI N.R. DASARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)whether Government have received a resolution passed by Andhra Pradesh Assembly urging inclusion of commercial crops like cotton, chilli, tobacco etc. under a comprehensive scheme; and

(b)if so, the action taken thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The contents of the resolution would be kept in mind at the time of formulation of a Modified Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (MCCIS) which is under consideration.